

## ASHoF finds experience in new curator

**By Jake Courtepatte**

As the newly appointed curator for the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, Laura Beaton is taking everything in her stride.

With all the hats that she wears for the Town of Aurora's Parks and Recreation department, she can be difficult to get a hold of. She holds the position of assistant curator with the Aurora Museum and Archives, where she began working closely with the Hall of Fame in developing the museum's upcoming exhibit 'Legacy of Sport.'

Her community involvement also stretches to the Aurora Cultural Centre, where she moonlights as a part-time facility supervisor.

'I'm very involved in the community through the work I do,' said Beaton. 'I'm also taking the Museum Studies Certificate course through the Ontario Museum Association, so between school and working I don't have much free time.'

In the few hours of down-time that she does get, she enjoys being active with fitness classes, like yoga and Pilates.

Beaton replaces Catherine Richards in the position as curator, who as ASHoF's first curator was responsible for designing and building the Hall's inaugural, and current, exhibit on the 3rd floor of the Town Hall.

There is a history between Richards and Beaton, as Beaton assisted in the 2013 project to digitize artifacts in the collection, as well as gather information for the inductee class that year.

'When I heard the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame was looking for a curator, I applied right away,' said Beaton. 'I'm very happy for this new and exciting opportunity.'

Beaton will be called on to collect, preserve, and display the Hall's honoured members' artifacts.

'With regards to displaying artefacts, the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is very much like a museum,' said project manager Nancy Black.

Her main project involves the exhibition for the upcoming 2015 Hall inductees, displayed in the Skylight Gallery at Town Hall. The exhibit is erected at the end of the year to coincide with Hall's Induction Dinner.

Now in its third year, the Hall of Fame is looking ahead to welcoming the 2015 inductee class at a gala at St. Andrew's College in November. Thirteen athletes have been inducted since its inception in 2013, with artifacts from their sporting careers displayed by the Hall.

The curator position also involves updating the permanent gallery at Town Hall and collecting more artifacts for the Hall's sport collection.

Currently, the position is funded by the nearly \$200-thousand Ontario Trillium Grant received by Sport Aurora in 2013.